

**Testimony of Theresa Velendzas Before the Connecticut General Assembly of  
Committee on Children  
February 24, 2015**

Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban, Co-Vice Chairs, Ranking Members, and honorable members of the Committee on Children. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony supporting **HB 6798 AN ACT REQUIRING LABELING OF BABY FOOD AND INFANT FORMULA CONTAINING GENETICALLY ENGINEERED ORGANISMS.**

I am unfortunately unable to attend this important hearing in person but want to applaud your efforts to protect our children once again. Please accept my testimony in support of this bill which is necessary to protect the health and wellbeing of our youngest and most vulnerable.

There are many reasons why a mother may need to bottle-feed instead of breastfeeding their child, and often times the reasons are health related. Every parent has the right to information that will allow them to make the best choices possible with regard to the nutrition of a child.

I have testified in person with my youngest child on this bill before and know first hand how passionate several of you are about leading this effort. I also know that the committee has before it many studies and statements from scientists demonstrating how, at the very least, no expert can say with absolute certainty that GMOs are safe. As your constituent I want you to know I support the valuable work you are doing. As a parent I can tell you that parenthood, especially early parenthood is a very trying time. Parents are often stressed, sleep deprived, and overwhelmed as they pour all their energy and resources into the needs of a new baby. Labels provide the necessary information to make choices in this highly debated issue.

Labeling for GMOs began here in CT, I am proud to say, and now we are seeing nationwide food chains as well as other states following suit. We know this is what consumers and constituents demand as information becomes available. It is the right thing to do. It is my hope that this will be the year this Committee will be able to work through the challenges from previous years, and continue with this necessary big push protecting consumer right to know.

Thank you for your time and work on this. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can assist in this effort in any way.

Respectfully,  
Theresa Velendzas  
Glastonbury CT  
[TVelendzas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:TVelendzas@sbcglobal.net)